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the one or more antimicrobial metals are provided as a coating on, or filler in, a dressing, or in a pharmaceutical composition with one or more pharmaceutically and dermatologically acceptable carriers, diluents or excipients suitable for topical administration.

B 2
SUB C 7
5. (Once Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutical composition includes a nanocrystalline powder of one or more antimicrobial metals, or a solution containing dissolved species from a nanocrystalline powder or coating of one or more antimicrobial metals.

B 3
SUB C 7
7. (Once Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the coating is provided on a dressing.

B 4
SUB C 7
10. (Once Amended) The method as set forth in claim 7, wherein the coating comprises:

a base layer of partly reflective material capable of generating an interference colour when covered with a partly reflective, partly light transmissive top layer; and

a top layer formed over said base layer, said top layer being a partly reflective, partly light transmissive thin film containing at least one noble metal in nanocrystalline form and having a thickness so that a first or second order interference colour is produced, said top layer having a refractive index different from that of said base layer, and the noble metal being formed with sufficient atomic disorder so that the top layer, in contact with an alcohol or water based electrolyte, releases ions, atoms, molecules or clusters of the noble metal into the alcohol or water based electrolyte on a sustainable basis.

11. (Once Amended) The method as set forth in claim 10, wherein the dressing is fixed in place with an occlusive or semi-occlusive layer which maintains the dressing in a moist condition.--

Add the following new claims.

135 --17. (New) A method of treating acne conditions, comprising:
contacting an acne problem area of a patient with a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition to provide a localized antimicrobial anti-inflammatory effect, wherein:
the pharmaceutical composition comprises:
antimicrobial silver in a nanocrystalline form; and
one or more pharmaceutically and dermatologically acceptable carriers, diluents or excipients suitable for topical administration; and
the antimicrobial silver has sufficient atomic disorder so that the silver, when in contact with an alcohol or water-based electrolyte, releases atoms, ions, molecules, or clusters of silver into the alcohol or water-based electrolyte at a concentration sufficient to provide a localized antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory effect.

Sub C 18. (New) The method as set forth in claim 17, wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprises a gel, cream or lotion containing the antimicrobial silver in a nanocrystalline form in an amount of 0.01 to 5% by weight.

19. (New) The method as set forth in claim 17, wherein the antimicrobial silver in nanocrystalline form has sufficient atomic disorder so that, when in contact with the alcohol or the water based electrolyte, the silver releases ions, atoms, molecules or clusters of silver into the alcohol or the water-based electrolyte on a sustainable basis.

Sub C 20. (New) The method as set forth in claim 17, wherein the antimicrobial silver in nanocrystalline form has a grain size of less than 100 nanometers in at least one dimension.

21. (New) The method as set forth in claim 17, wherein the antimicrobial silver in nanocrystalline form has a grain size of less than 50 nanometers in at least one dimension.

22. (New) The method as set forth in claim 17, wherein the antimicrobial silver in nanocrystalline form has a grain size of less than 25 nanometers in at least one dimension.--